

Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

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SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE **H.B. 2037**

Testimony on Behalf of the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
By David Springe, Consumer Counsel
March 17, 2003

Chairman Clark and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and offer testimony on H.B. 2037. The Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

While CURB does not favor the existing security cost recovery law as expressed in K.S.A. 66-1233, CURB respects that it is the law and is participating before the KCC in the process implementing the law. However, the existing law allowing utility companies to recover security costs through a surcharge on consumer bills will sunset on July 1, 2004.

H.B. 2037 (at page 1, line 43) removes the existing sunset provision in K.S.A. 66-1233, making the recovery of utility security costs through consumer surcharges a continuing regulatory obligation. CURB would prefer that the sunset provision remain in the existing law, that this law be allowed to sunset and that the law be allowed to go away.

In the alternative, if the Committee believes that the existing sunset provision results in this law ending too soon, CURB would prefer a short extension of the sunset rather than an outright removal of the sunset provision.

CURB would also note that H.B. 2374 also modifies K.S.A. 66-1233. CURB is strongly opposed to H.B. 2374. If H.B. 2374 does become law, it would further strengthen CURB's opinion that K.S.A. 66-1233 should sunset and end, and would further strengthen CURB's opposition to H.B. 2037.